

AMENDMENT

US Application No. 10/501,555

Attorney Docket No. 10400-000111/US

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An epicutaneous test plaster, comprising:
  - a flexible carrier including an adhesive layer for removable adhesion of the epicutaneous test plaster to a skin portion;
  - a ~~number~~plurality of test chambers distributed over the adhesive layer of the carrier; and
  - a removable cover layer extending over all the test chambers and the carrier, wherein the test chambers are formed as separate chambers, each test chamber including,
    - a support element secured to the carrier and including a support layer adhered to a moisture barrier layer,
    - a frame-shaped foam plastic layer secured on top of and embracing the support element ~~and, the frame-shaped foam plastic layer having on its an~~ outwardly directed side ~~on which is provided~~ a layer of adhesive, and
  - wherein the cover layer is removably secured by way of the adhesive layer of the carrier.
2. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover layer is a plastic layer with blister bubbles, which have the same distribution and location as the test chambers, and which are larger than the test chambers to enclose the test chambers.
3. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 2, wherein the cover layer consists of a plastic layer laminate with a polyethylene layer that faces the test chambers.
4. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of the blister bubbles of the cover layer has a groove in contact with the layer of adhesive of a corresponding frame-shaped foam plastic layer.

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5. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover layer consists of a paper liner with a silicone layer that faces the test chambers.

6. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier consists of a flexible porous surgical tape with a methacrylate-based adhesive layer.

7. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support layer of the support element is cellulose-based.

8. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frame-shaped foam plastic layer consists of a polyethylene foam.

9. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support element is secured to the carrier by way of a bottom layer of a flexible double-adhesive tape.

10. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 9, wherein the double-adhesive tape which forms the bottom layer has adhesive layers of a synthetic rubber-based adhesive.

11. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support element is secured to the carrier by way of an adhesive layer, whose one side is fixed to the carrier and whose other side is fixed to the support element.

12. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frame-shaped foam plastic layer is secured to the support element by way of a frame-shaped fixing layer of a flexible double-adhesive tape, arranged on top of the support element and surrounds the same.

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13. (Currently Amended) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 12,  
wherein the frame-shaped fixing layer of flexible double-adhesive tape partially covers ~~the~~  
~~rim portions~~portion of the support element and extends outside said rim ~~portions~~portion.

14. (Currently Amended) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 13,  
wherein the frame-shaped fixing layer of flexible double-adhesive tape has ~~its~~-adhesive layers  
made of a synthetic rubber-based adhesive.

15. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the frame-shaped foam plastic layer is secured to the support element by means of an  
adhesive layer, whose one side is fixed to the foam plastic layer and whose other side is fixed  
to the support element.

16. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein the frame-shaped foam plastic layer is formed as a double-adhesive tape.

17. (Currently Amended) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 23,  
wherein each of the blister bubbles of the cover layer has a groove in contact with the layer of  
~~medical~~-adhesive of a corresponding frame-shaped foam plastic layer.

18. (Currently Amended) An epicutaneous test plaster, comprising:  
a carrier including an adhesive layer; and  
a plurality of test chambers distributed over the adhesive layer of the carrier, each test  
chamber including,  
a support element mounted on the carrier, and  
a frame-shaped foam plastic layer having a lower surface mounted on the  
support element, and an upper surface with adhesive means for attaching the frame-shaped  
foam plastic layer to a test area;  
wherein the foam plastic layers of the test chambers are spaced apart from each other.

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19. (Currently Amended) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 18, wherein the adhesive means is an adhesive layer that extends all the way around the perimeter of an interior of a corresponding test chamber.
20. (Currently Amended) An epicutaneous test plaster, comprising:  
a carrier including an adhesive layer;  
a plurality of test chambers distributed over the adhesive layer of the carrier, each test chamber including,  
a support element mounted on the carrier, and  
a frame-shaped foam plastic layer mounted on the support element; and  
an adhesive layer provided on the frame-shaped foam plastic layer, the adhesive layer including an opening through which an interior of the test chamber is exposed.
21. (Previously Presented) An epicutaneous test plaster as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a cover layer which is a plastic layer with blister bubbles, which have the same distribution and location as the test chambers.